



SUMMER
2014

SUGAR LAND TODAY

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND

UH SUGAR LAND GROWING

The University of Houston System is planning to create a Tier One UH branch campus in Sugar Land. A plan will be developed to create a robust program of UH degree offerings at the Sugar Land branch campus. Read more on page 5.

THE CITY'S FIRST AMBULANCE

The City purchased its first ambulance for the Sugar Land Fire Department. A new ambulance transport system should increase readiness for fire and EMS calls. Read more on page 14.



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REPORT

DEAR RESIDENTS



Last November, Sugar Land citizens voted to fund two parks projects with property tax revenues. The decision to create more park space and recreational opportunities will add to the already desirable quality of life in our City. Councilmembers have agreed to a five-year plan beginning in 2015 to implement these exciting projects.

The approved propositions include the development of 128 acres of new parkland along the Brazos River with an adjacent festival site and a connecting network of nearly 10 miles of hike and bike trails and

bridges. Voters chose not to use property taxes to fund a future 65-acre major community park.

The schedule to implement these major projects will be formalized in the approval of the City's five-year Capital Improvement Program later this year. City Council has directed staff to begin funding for the projects through a 1 cent property tax increase in 2015 and additional 1 cent tax increases as needed in 2016-2020 that could be reduced or eliminated based on revaluations.

Funding of the quality of life projects will not affect the timing of needed street reconstruction or drainage projects.

City Council agreed that no immediate action is needed on the unsuccessful community park. The City will gather input on the best use of the property during a future update of the

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

The bond election provided an opportunity for our residents to choose whether to authorize property taxes to fund parks projects that were identified through years of community input. The vote reaffirmed that residents believe the approved projects are important to Sugar Land's quality of life and economic prosperity. It is our intent to keep the tax rate as low as possible while maintaining the quality of service and amenities that our residents expect.

Sugar Land has become such a wonderful place to live, work and visit, and it just keeps getting better. Our residents are very engaged in the City's development. This involvement is what makes our City great.

CITY GOALS

Safest City in America
Responsible City Government
Strong Local Economy
Great Place to Live
Building Community

CITY COUNCIL

James A. Thompson
Mayor

Harish Jajoo
Mayor Pro Tem
Single Member District Four

Himesh Gandhi
At-Large Position One

Joe R. Zimmerman
At-Large Position Two

Steve R. Porter
Single Member District One

Bridget R. Yeung
Single Member District Two

Amy L. Mitchell
Single Member District Three

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Sugar Land Today is published quarterly by the City of Sugar Land.

LAND USE PLAN UPDATE

The public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on an updated Land Use Plan this summer. The Land Use Plan provides policy guidance on how to accomplish the City's long-term land use vision and goals. Information about upcoming public input opportunities will be posted online as they are scheduled.

Earlier this year, residents participated in a Land Use Forum—a speaker and community dialogue series—and provided valuable feedback and ideas on the challenges ahead. For those that missed the series, videos of the speaker presentations and Online Town Hall discussions on the land use issues covered in the forum are available online.

Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/landuseplan, email longrangeplanning@sugarlandtx.gov or call 281-275-2218 for more information or to sign up for email updates.

MAYOR AND TWO COUNCIL MEMBERS SWORN IN



Mayor James A. Thompson takes oath of office from Fort Bend County Judge Robert Hebert.



Mayor Thompson administers oath of office to Councilmembers Himesh Gandhi and Joe Zimmerman.

Mayor James A. Thompson and Council Members Himesh Gandhi, At-Large Position One, and Joe R. Zimmerman, At-Large Position Two, were sworn into office during the May 20 City Council meeting.

Thompson begins his fourth and last term. Thompson served from 1996 to 2005 on Sugar Land City Council as a district and at-large council member and then served three terms as mayor of Sugar Land. During this time, he has been involved with major mobility improvements, the creation of Town Square, the development of Sugar Land Regional Airport, numerous additions to the City's park

system, acquisition of land for the Brazos River corridor, the establishment of the University of Houston campus in Sugar Land and the construction of Constellation Field.

Gandhi, a local attorney, begins his second term as council member. He was first elected to office in May 2012 after serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission. A resident of Sugar Land for 22 years, he is known for his community and civic involvement. Gandhi is an attorney and shareholder with the law firm of Roberts Markel Weinberg, P.C.

Zimmerman was first elected to office in May 2012 and begins his second term on Council. He is a civil engineer and has lived in Sugar Land since 1990. He has been involved in the City and community for many years. He served on the Sugar Land Planning and Zoning Commission from 2000 to 2008, during which he served six years as chairman. He also served as chairman of the City of Sugar Land Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/bios for complete bios of the mayor and council members.

2013 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR MIKE & KISKA JONES

Mike and Kiska Jones were named 2013 Volunteers of the Year for their work at the Municipal Court Juvenile Community Service Garden.

Each year, departments nominate a volunteer who contributes in ways that allow the City to further expand and enhance the services provided to the community. This year's recipients were chosen because their contributions allowed Sugar Land youth to fulfill community service obligations in a way that benefits the community. Instead of paying municipal citations for Class C misdemeanor offenses, some juveniles were assigned to a work in a garden where they cultivated crops such as tomatoes, squash, cabbage, radishes, carrots and more.

The Jones' volunteered more than 1,400 hours at the Sugar Land Municipal Court Juvenile Community Service Garden where they taught youth the proper way to garden and the time of the year to harvest the fruits and vegetables. They also transported the fruits and vegetables to local organizations in need of food.

Other volunteers selected by City departments included Beverly Smith, Animal Services; Ramiro Rodriguez, Police Department; and Zara Ali, Accounting.

In 2013, more than 1,000 volunteers contributed more than 25,500 hours of service to Sugar Land, equaling more than \$575,000 in in-kind service donations. Volunteer opportunities can be found at www.sugarlandtx.gov/volunteer.



GRADUATIONS



SUGAR LAND 101

City Council recognized graduates of Sugar Land 101, a 10-week course focusing on City operations and preparing participants for leadership roles in the community. The curriculum includes presentations by City staff; a mock City Council meeting with Mayor James Thompson; and field trips to several sites, such as the new surface water treatment plant, animal shelter, police and fire stations, the traffic center, Sugar Land Regional Airport and the Sugar Land Heritage Museum.

Class member Zeenat Mitha said, "The course allowed us to learn about areas of responsibility within the City of Sugar Land as well as to take tours where we saw first-hand how the system worked."

The 2014 graduating class marked the program's 11th year. Applications for the next Sugar Land 101 class will be available in August. Space is limited. For more information or to register, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/SL101, call 281-275-2329 or email sl101@sugarlandtx.gov.

MYAC'S NINTH CLASS

Students participating in the 2013-2014 Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) class will graduate July 15. The advisory council empowers youth from various backgrounds to become active members in the community by providing an overview of local government's role in public service.

The application process for the 2014-2015 class will begin in August. Applications are due at the end of September. Students entering their junior year in high school who are interested in participating in MYAC may complete an online application at www.sugarlandtx.gov/MYAC.



Citizens Fire Academy



Citizens Airport Academy

CLASS OF 2014 ACADEMIES

Forty-three Sugar Land residents recently graduated from the Citizens Police Academy, Citizens Fire Academy and Sugar Land Airport Academy. These citizen-involvement academies provide opportunities to learn about these departments in depth.

In the Citizens Fire Academy, students learn about responsibilities during terrorism events, fire suppression, emergency medical care, education about fire hazards and more. The Citizens Police Academy goes undercover to learn about the Police Department's structure, crime scene investigations, patrol procedures and firearms training. The Airport Academy curriculum focuses on the history of the Sugar Land Regional Airport, its role in the City and the benefits to the region and Sugar Land.

The next Citizens Police Academy will be held in September. Applications will be available online in July. For more information on citizen-involvement programs and enrollment, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/volunteer.

UH SUGAR LAND GROWING

The University of Houston System is planning to expand its current programs and launch 22 programs in Sugar Land as well as relocate a large segment of its College of Technology to that campus as part of plans to create a Tier One UH branch campus in Sugar Land. The School of Nursing will remain at the Sugar Land campus as part of the transition to the UH System as the sole provider of programs at UH Sugar Land. In addition to degree programs, UH will deliver select certificate programs at the Sugar Land campus to meet local workforce needs.

As a first step in the implementation of these changes, UH System Chancellor Renu Khator appointed a task force to examine the issues involved in the major undertaking, weighing the best interests of students, the community and the UH System. Former UH System Board of Regents Chair Welcome Wilson, Sr., led the task force, which included leaders from the University of Houston System, Sugar Land, Fort Bend County and Victoria. Over a period of several months, the task force developed recommendations to guide the planning and implementation of this initiative.

The task force's recommendations will be planned and implemented during a two-to-five year transition period. As UH expands programs at the UH Sugar Land Campus, UH-Victoria and UH-Clear Lake will incrementally cease delivery of their classes at the UH Sugar Land Campus.

The Sugar Land community has worked hard to see higher education grow in the City. The George Foundation, Fred and Mabel Park Foundation and other private donors have contributed generously, and the City of Sugar Land and Fort Bend County have made significant contributions as well.

"We are excited at the prospects of strengthening our strong relationship with the University of Houston and the additional resources being invested in our community," said Mayor James Thompson. "The residents of Sugar Land have not only supported this collaboration from the very beginning but asked for accelerated development so that the University of Houston System would expand and grow into Sugar Land sooner rather than later. We believe this investment will serve the long-term educational needs of our community and also the region.

"With expanded program offerings and the City's investment in the surrounding growth of business, entertainment and recreational offerings, we believe we have created a strong synergy of public-private partnerships that will build a foundation of educational success for future generations."

CONVENTION CENTER AND RETAIL STUDIES



A market analysis and feasibility study for a convention center in Sugar Land is being conducted. The convention center is intended to serve a larger market than can be accommodated at the existing conference center in Sugar Land Marriott Town Square.

The effort is expected to take 16 weeks and will identify underserved markets, regional capacity issues, the types of uses in demand, competing facilities and potential sites in the City. The study is the result of recommendations made by the City's Visioning Task Force in 2007 for a minor league ballpark, a performing arts center, a festival site and a second convention center and a cultural arts facility. Constellation Field was the first venue to be completed. The performing arts center and the future festival site are in the planning stages.

The City is also updating its retail strategy to provide a snapshot of Sugar Land's demographic and consumer spending habits. The last study was performed in 2010 and identified potential retailers that the City then targeted through marketing efforts. The recruitment of Costco was a successful outcome of the study.

Changing demographics in Sugar Land prompted a new analysis of consumer spending habits and identification of potential new retail, entertainment and hospitality markets that would succeed in Sugar Land's market. The update will include specific retail submarkets and the overall retail trade area for Sugar Land, existing retail centers and consumer spending preferences. The study will also identify a benchmark for sales tax per square foot in order to produce data-driven decisions for attracting preferred retailers.

The goal is to diversify future revenue sources for the City as well as grow Sugar Land's attractiveness as a destination for residents, corporations and tourists. The study will be incorporated into the City's redevelopment strategy and Land Use Plan. It is expected to be completed this fall.

Participate in the retail study by completing the online survey here: sugarlandcodev.com/retail.aspx.

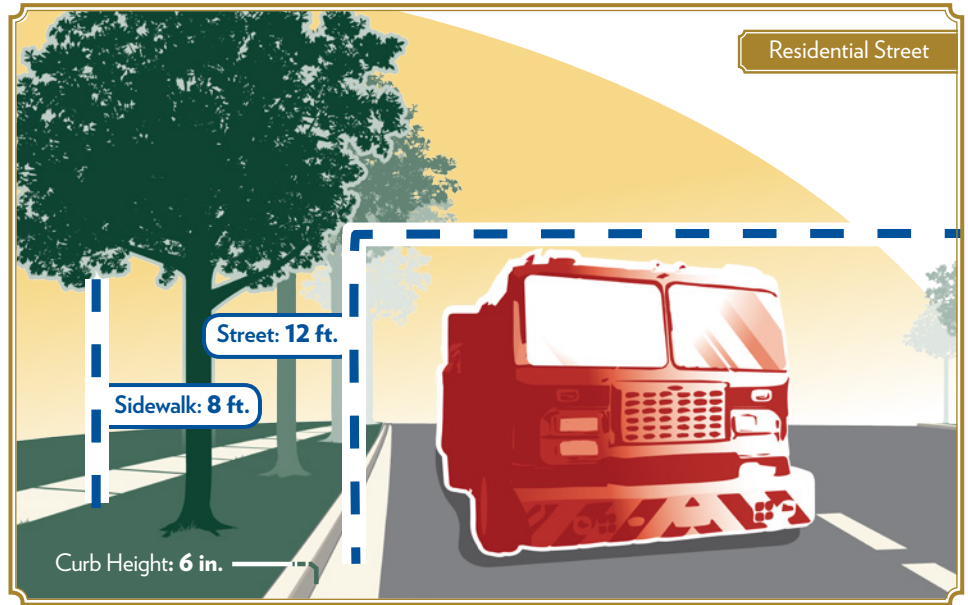
TREE TRIMMING FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

One of the benefits of living in Sugar Land is the abundance of trees in the City. Tree canopies are great for shade, but branches can become a hazard if they interfere with the passage of emergency vehicles. Properly pruned trees allow large vehicles such as fire trucks, ambulances and garbage trucks to safely navigate City streets.

Sugar Land residents and business owners are required by City ordinance to trim their trees if public rights-of-way are affected. Trees that are interfering with emergency service vehicles and other vehicular and/or pedestrian traffic traveling on streets or sidewalks may be in violation of City code. Sugar Land inspectors are currently inspecting trees along City rights-of-way to ensure compliance with codes.

All trees and limbs growing in or near a right-of-way must be trimmed to the regulated height stated by city ordinance:

- Where the tree overhangs a residential street, there must be a clear space under the tree that is 12 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.
- Where the tree overhangs a non-residential street with occasional semi-trailer traffic, there must be a clear space under the tree that is 14 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.



City staff are inspecting neighborhoods through September. Courtesy notices will be issued to properties found in violation of the ordinance. If violations persist, a citation to appear in court may be issued for properties that fail to meet compliance deadlines.

Trees are a valuable asset to properties and the environment, and pruning involves making good decisions for the health of trees.

- Use tools that are sharp and clean.
- Prune only the lower limbs required for clearance, as well as any broken or dead branches.
- Heavy thinning of interior branches is not necessary and is not healthy for trees.
- For large limbs and limbs that cannot safely be reached, the City recommends hiring a professional arborist.

For more tree care information and information on local arborists, visit treesaregood.org.

For questions about maintenance responsibilities, contact individual homeowner associations or the City of Sugar Land Public Works Department at 281-275-2450.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Sugar Land uses a comprehensive approach to mosquito control. The City began spraying for mosquitoes in May and will continue to spray every Friday through October. The application of a broad-spectrum insecticide will start each evening at approximately 9 p.m.

PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS

Dog owners are required to properly dispose of their dogs' waste. Animal feces left outside often washes into storm drains that flow directly into local waterways. Storm drains do not connect to sanitary sewer systems and treatment facilities, so pet waste can be the cause of significant stormwater pollution and health risks for adults, children and other pets.

Responsible pet owners always clean up after their pets, even in their own yards. When walking one or more dogs, carry a plastic bag and dispose of the waste properly. City ordinance requires dog owners to pick up their pets' waste.

For more information, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/stormwater.



NEW SERVICE PICKS UP!

More than 549 residents have utilized the City's new curbside household hazardous waste and e-waste collection program as of the end of May. Republic Services has collected 50,410 pounds of material. Launched in 2014, the program is offered on an on-call basis at no additional cost to residents. The table below details the type and weight of materials collected.

Material	Weight (pounds)
Paint and paint related materials	22,618
Liquids (flammable, corrosive)	1,397
Televisions	8,612
Computer items (monitors, laptops, etc.)	10,604
Miscellaneous items	7,179
Total	50,410

Items collected include computers, televisions, paint, motor oil, compact fluorescent light bulbs, pool chemicals and more. To schedule a collection, contact Republic Services at 713-726-7307.



SOLID WASTE SERVICE SCHEDULE CHANGES

In order to provide the best customer service by optimizing the routes for solid waste pickup, the days for bulky waste pickup will change for all residents on Aug. 4. In addition, service days for curbside recycling will change for some residents. Regular garbage and green waste pickup will remain unchanged.

In addition to garbage, green waste, bulky items and recycling, Sugar Land now collects household hazardous waste (HHW) and e-waste on an on-call basis. To schedule collection, contact Republic Services at 713-726-7307. You will be asked to describe the materials and provide quantities of each. Republic Services will mail you a special HHW kit that will include instructions on packaging the materials for safe collection.

The service day changes are needed to improve efficiency by evenly dividing the number of stops on each day and rearranging the service areas to be more contiguous. Residents will receive a notification by mail detailing the changes; a magnet detailing the new schedule will be included. The new service days are also posted at www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste.

THE CITY TEAMS UP WITH PETSMART

Sugar Land Animal Services partnered with PetsMart in February to find forever homes for its furry friends. By the end of May, only three-and-a-half months into the program, 66 animals had been adopted—a huge success!

The partnership provides an opportunity to display adoptable animals in the community on a daily basis. Cats are housed at the store seven days a week, and dogs are at the store on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. If a potential adopter finds a pet they like, they can take the cat or dog home for a sleepover to see if it is the perfect fit.

It is a win for everybody—the animals, the City's Animal Services Department, PetsMart and the adopters. The animals are seen by a greater number of potential adopters, which helps find homes for

rescued dogs and cats. The partnership is made possible by Animal Services volunteers who commit their weekends to finding homes for animals at the City's shelter. More volunteers are needed to assist with these types of programs. Those interested in adding a four-legged member to their family might consider visiting the City's adoption events at Petsmart.

PetsMart: 16758 Southwest Freeway
Fridays: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sundays: noon to 4 p.m.

SUGAR LAND DRAINAGE PROJECTS UPDATE

The Master Drainage Plan adopted in 2007 and the citywide Integrated Storm Water Management Model completed in 2010 have provided direction for important drainage projects. Recent projects completed or underway include the following.

The \$4 million **Ragus Lakes** drainage project to improve drainage and street infrastructure concluded in May. The project was identified in January 2012 after 4.6 inches of rain fell during a single day and caused major street flooding. The project included the installation of over 3,500 feet of box culvert from the outfall location at Oyster Creek at Burney Road and Ragus Lake Drive. This culvert allowed the City to redirect drainage from parts of Covington Woods and Ragus Lakes to Oyster Creek, fixing two major areas that had suffered extensive street flooding and some minor flooding in homes. The project also included reconstruction of the streets, which totaled more than 17,000 square yards of concrete, along with sidewalk replacement in select areas and other related infrastructure needs.

Drainage improvements in **Sugar Mill** are underway. The completion of Phase I cost \$1.5 million and included the cleaning and channel lining of Ditch A-22, the reconstruction of the two existing outfalls and the addition of two outfalls that drain into the ditch. In February, City Council approved a \$1.1 million contract for Phase II of the project. Construction to reduce the risk of street ponding and flooding along Rolling Mill Drive, Abbott Circle and Hillary Circle began in March.

Drainage improvements in **Sugar Creek** began in 2009 with the construction of a regional detention pond within the Riverbend golf course to accommodate the drainage within the country club. Riverbend Country

Club contributed to the funding of the project and made drainage improvements. Phase I of the project included improvements to convey water into and out of Jane Long Lake and through the Sugar Creek golf course in order to reduce flooding along Sugar Creek Boulevard and Country Club Drive. Phase II will address areas in the western part of Sugar Creek. Construction will begin this summer and is estimated to cost \$3.2 million. Phase III will address areas east of Sugar Creek Boulevard and will include major road and drainage improvements during the next five years.

Drainage analysis and preliminary engineering for **Covington Woods** is complete. Design for the first of many planned improvements should start in October and address major street flooding and ponding.

The City completed a collaborative project with Fort Bend County and Union Pacific for flood control on **Oyster Creek**. Excess water in Oyster Creek now flows into Ditch H. The improvements included a flood bypass channel and spillway structure for Oyster Creek. This project cost more than \$4 million.

An update to the City's Master Drainage Plan is underway. Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/drainage to learn more about the process. Residents are encouraged to sign up for email updates and provide feedback. Also, residents can request that City staff investigate concerns about flooding, ponding or another drainage issue online.



Sugar Mill



Ragus Lake



Ditch H

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

TELFAIR

Telfair includes more than 2,000 acres north and south of U.S. Highway 59 near University Boulevard. Several projects are being constructed.

- The Texas Instruments campus on the south side of U.S. Highway 59 at University Boulevard and Lexington Boulevard will be finished in June.
- Construction continues on the Telfair Exchange Lofts, a project that includes 317 residential units on Branford Place.
- Construction continues on Addison Avenue at U.S. Highway 59 and the nearby Telfair West Office Park west of University Boulevard.

IMPERIAL

The Imperial development contains 716 acres located north of U.S. Highway 90A and east of State Highway 6 and includes the former Imperial Sugar refinery.

- Construction of homes in the Silent Manor and Quiet Cove subdivisions includes 143 residential lots, of which 27 are townhome lots.
- Construction of the Ballpark Lofts next to Constellation Field will include 254 apartment units. This development will connect to the Imperial trail system currently under construction.
- The lanes for the bridge over Oyster Creek connecting to Ulrich Street have been installed, and the Imperial trail system along the creek is nearing completion.

RIVERSTONE

Riverstone is located on 2,170 acres in the southeast corner of the City's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), an area outside the City's corporate limits that is available for annexation in the future.

- Construction of the 249 residential units at Retreat at Riverstone Residential community is ongoing.

UPDATES TO CITY ROAD PROJECTS

WILLIAMS TRACE BOULEVARD

The preliminary engineering report for the reconstruction of Williams Trace Boulevard between Austin Parkway and Lexington Boulevard is scheduled to be finished by the end of September. The project will be designed and constructed in two phases. Phase I will encompass Austin Parkway Boulevard to State Highway 6, and Phase II will address the section from State Highway 6 to Lexington Boulevard. Final design and construction will be scheduled as funding is allocated in the five-year capital improvement program.

DAIRY ASHFORD

The design of Dairy Ashford from Parklane Boulevard to Stiles Lane is 30 percent complete. The design phase is anticipated to be finished in January 2015 with construction expected in the spring of 2015.

MEADOWCROFT BOULEVARD

Construction of the Meadowcroft Boulevard extension from First Colony Boulevard to Ditch H is underway. Completion of this \$1.5 million project is scheduled for September and will provide additional east/west access over Ditch H. A bridge will be constructed by Newland Communities and should be finished by the end of the year. There will be a new signalized intersection at First Colony and Meadowcroft Boulevards along with trails that will connect into Telfair from First Colony Boulevard.

AUSTIN PARKWAY

Design of a section of Austin Parkway from State Highway 6 to the levee near Commonwealth is underway and scheduled for completion in August 2014. Improvements will include the new roadway, sidewalk and trail expansions and other infrastructure. Construction will be proposed for inclusion in the five-year capital improvement program.

UNIVERSITY NORTH BOULEVARD

This \$4.8 million project is complete and now provides access from U.S. Highway 90A South through Telfair and Riverstone to State Highway 6 in Missouri City. The corridor relieves traffic on other north/south streets and provides a key crossing over the railroad tracks at U.S. Highway 90A and access to Nalco and adjacent property.

This City-led project was funded by the City of Sugar Land, the Texas Department of Transportation and Fort Bend County.

LAKEFIELD SUBDIVISION

The Lakefield subdivision project design is scheduled for completion in July, and construction could begin as early as the fall of this year. This roadway reconstruction project includes replacement of sidewalk throughout the subdivision as well as drainage and water infrastructure as needed. The project will begin with the reconstruction of Lakefield Way and Great Lakes Avenue.



2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT

AVAILABLE ONLINE:

WWW.SUGARLANDTX.GOV/WATERREPORT2013

Sugar Land was recognized as one of the top three Texas public water systems for 2013 out of approximately 7000 public water systems in the state.

The City takes pride in operating a superior rated water system and delivering quality drinking water to customers throughout the City. The City's team of licensed water operators and water quality professionals provides the community with clean, safe, drinkable water 24-hours-a-day.

Water samples are taken daily and tested for chemical, bacteriological and disinfectant residual contaminants. The samples are taken from various locations throughout the water treatment plants.

The Water Quality Report is an annual

report on Sugar Land's drinking water quality. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments signed in 1996 require the operators of every community water system to create and deliver a report to their citizens.

The Water Quality Report is an easy-to-read summary intended to inform our customers about the water they drink. It includes general health information related to water quality, a list of contaminants found in Sugar Land's water, a summary of testing results, information about the City's water delivery system and information on who to call with concerns about water quality.

The report is also used to document any monitoring or testing violations of drinking water standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). All EPA and TCEQ water quality standards were met and Sugar Land's water meets all health-based drinking water criteria and aesthetic standards.

To review the 2013 testing results, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/waterreport2013. Printed copies of the 2013 Water Quality Report can be requested from the Public Works Department at 281-275-2450.

SEWER LINE PROBLEMS

Occasionally, sewer lines become clogged and either drain slowly or cause wastewater to back up. If this occurs, report the problem to a customer service representative on the City's 24-hour phone line at 281-275-2450. City staff will come out to investigate the stoppage to determine if the problem is in the homeowner's wastewater line or the City's collection pipe. Household clogs may require the resident to hire a plumber. City staff will repair stoppages in the City's collection system.

Joe Reyes, operational manager, says, "It is always good to first call the City; hiring a plumber can be costly, and we do not reimburse for a plumber if the City was not called first."

To prevent sewer line stoppages:

- Do not flush "flushable" wipes or diapers (toss them in the trash).
- Do not dispose of oil or grease down the drain.
- Do not dispose of egg shells or bones in the kitchen garbage disposal.

WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION AWARDS

Colony Meadows Elementary School teacher Eileen Gray was recognized by the Fort Bend Subsidence District for incorporating the Learning to Be Water Wise program into the school's fifth-grade curriculum. The hands-on program emphasizes the importance of water conservation. Each student receives a conservation kit to extend learning through practical applications at home.

The Learning to Be Water Wise program is sponsored by the City of Sugar Land for fourth- and fifth-grade students attending schools in the City's water planning area, which extends beyond the city limits to include the Greatwood, New Territory, Tara Plantation and Riverstone developments. Since 2007, Sugar Land has sponsored more than 12,000 students.

For more information on the Learning to Be Water Wise program, contact the Public Works Department at 281-275-2450.

SUM IT UP WITH A CALCULATOR



Using a water calculator is an excellent way to measure household water use. The water conservation webpage on the City's website (www.sugarlandtx.gov/sugarlandconserves) features a water calculator from Home Water Works. The calculator uses information about the household's water use and compares it to homes in the same region. Based on the answers provided, the water calculator estimates the amount of water used inside and outside of the home. Once the results are tallied, the calculator offers insight into water conserving practices that can lower water use.



Left to right: David Martinez, Fort Bend Subsidence District conservation coordinator; Eileen Gray, fifth-grade teacher at Colony Meadows Elementary School; and Colleen Spencer, City of Sugar Land water conservation manager



WATER SAVING TIPS FOR LAWNS & LANDSCAPES

HEALTHY HABITS

Significant water conservation can be achieved using simple tips for lawn maintenance. Consider the following water saving recommendations to reduce water consumption and maintain a beautiful landscape.

- Water your lawn only when needed; once every four days is ample.
- Turn off sprinkler systems when rain is predicted. Leave it off until the soil dries.
- Set the lawn mower blades to cut grass no less than 2-3 inches tall.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn as fertilizer.
- Hand water landscape areas that need more water than others.
- Use a hose with a spray nozzle that has a shutoff handle to stop water flow as needed.
- Use a broom to sweep pavement.
- Choose drought resistant and native plants.
- Mulch to conserve moisture, reducing the need for frequent watering.

DETER UNWANTED PESTS

Most of the insects commonly seen in the yard are harmless and benefit a landscape's ecosystem. Improper or overuse of pesticides is detrimental to many beneficial insects that work as decomposers, pollinators, predators and parasites.

Overwatering attracts unwanted pests. Too much water also promotes algae and fungus growth on buildings, plants and in soil. Mosquitos, snails, snakes and animals like skunks frequently become a nuisance when overwatering creates moist habitats in the landscape.

To keep your backyard ecosystem balanced and healthy, check out Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a non-chemical approach to protect beneficial insects, your family and our waterways from harmful chemicals at the EarthKind website: earthkind.tamu.edu.



Ladybugs are an excellent alternative to pesticides for aphids on rose bushes.



APPLY MULCH

Mulching landscape beds conserves water, reduces evaporation, prevents erosion, controls weeds, enriches the soil and promotes healthy plant growth. Whether organic (leaves, bark, pine needles, straw and compost) or inorganic, non-plant materials (brick chips, stones, synthetic fabrics) mulch serves as a protective ground covering that reduces water loss through evaporation. It also helps to maintain a consistent soil temperature during hot summers and cold winters.

FERTILIZE MODESTLY

Lawn and garden fertilizers often contaminate neighborhood lakes and waterways. Avoid using fertilizers in the garden and landscape; instead consider natural methods to enrich soils with nutrients such as animal manure, compost and mulch. Compost promotes the growth of beneficial microorganisms that support a plant's ability to absorb water and nutrients. It also provides a natural defense against unwanted lawn and garden pests.

ESTABLISH DEEP ROOTS

Sugar Land normally gets enough rain to maintain green grass. Supplemental irrigation may be necessary during weeks when it does not rain. Especially during the spring, established lawns and plantings do not require a lot of watering. As the spring growth cycle begins, less water encourages a deeper root system to access water and nutrients. Deeper roots mean heartier plants. Watering too frequently drowns a plant's roots, starving them of oxygen and discouraging root growth. Deep roots are essential for preventing diseases, deterring insect damage and enduring periods of low rainfall.



REPORT
WATER
LEAKS

Water pipes break much more often during summer months when hot, dry weather causes the soil to shift and compact.

"We encourage citizens to contact us when they see a water leak," said Joe Reyes, operations manager. "Our customer service team investigates all reported outdoor water leaks to determine the cause; if the leak is outside, call the City before calling a plumber."

To report a water leak, call anytime day or night:
281-275-2450.



THE CITY'S FIRST AMBULANCE

City Council approved the purchase of the Sugar Land Fire Department's first ambulance on May 6 to support plans to begin offering an ambulance transport system in January 2015. Additional ambulances will be purchased before the end of the year.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) represented more than 60 percent of SLFD's call volume last year, while structure fires were about .3 percent. A focus on strong code enforcement, public education and relatively new infrastructure contributed toward a low number of structure fires in Sugar Land.

A priority during 2013 was to begin planning for the creation of SLFD's own ambulance transport system. The effort was the result of a strategic project to meet Advanced Life Support delivery standards that were identified by Dr. Joe Anzaldúa, Sugar Land's medical director. He specifically recommended:

- improving response times for advanced life support calls;
- creating a Patient Care Reporting system that can be used by paramedics in the field to ensure local hospitals have access to information prior to the arrival of patients;
- building on a network of assets that provide flexibility, speed and efficiency in public safety response; and
- building an Emergency Medical Dispatch capacity that will send appropriate personnel and equipment to EMS calls.

Battalion Chief Cindy King was hired in February to work with Assistant Fire Chief Mario Partida on the implementation of EMS transport. They are in the process of hiring new paramedic/firefighters. In addition, some current firefighters are being trained as paramedics.



Above, left to right: Assistant Fire Chief Mario Partida and Battalion Chief Cindy King.

The addition of SLFD's own ambulance transport system, increased paramedic certifications and expanded dispatch operations is expected to decrease response times for EMS calls.

The addition of SLFD's own ambulance transport system, increased paramedic certifications and expanded dispatch operations is expected to decrease response times for EMS calls. The new system should also increase readiness for fire calls, as the appropriate resources will be sent to calls for service.

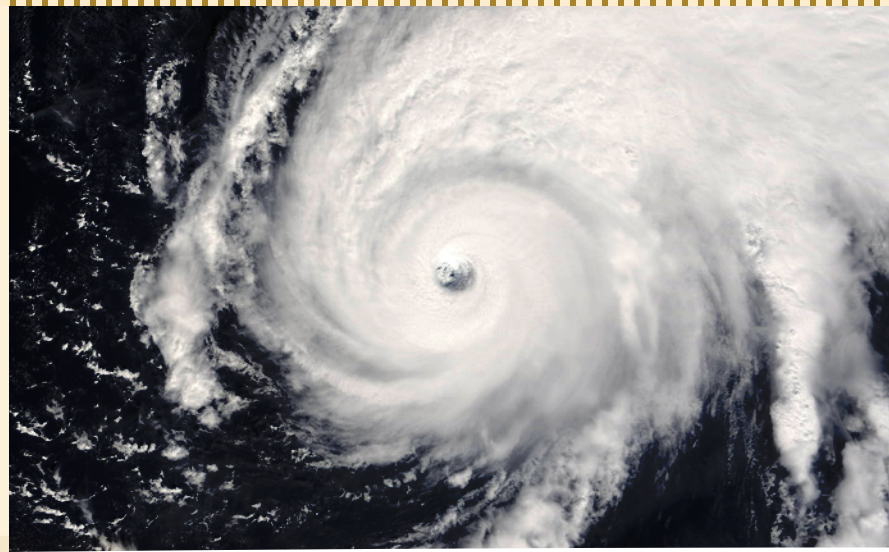


HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

Now is the time to prepare for hurricane season, which continues through Nov. 30. Hurricane activity is typically more intense during August and September. Since Sugar Land is located just 50 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, any storm that hits the Gulf Coast could potentially affect Sugar Land and the Greater Houston Area.

Those who experienced Hurricane Ike in 2008 are familiar with the damage that can be caused by high winds and flooding. A call to evacuate is rare for Fort Bend County, but Sugar Land could be a major evacuation route for other cities located closer to the coast. Residents need to be prepared for limited access to roads and gas and food shortages that could be caused by prolonged power outages during a severe storm event.

Be prepared by creating a basic emergency supply kit. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Ready



website (www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit) includes lists of important items to include for households with babies, the elderly, people with special needs and pets. Find important instructions on preparedness, response and recovery efforts on the City's website (www.sugarlandtx.gov) under the Emergency Management Department.

Stay informed during hurricanes and other emergencies by signing up for the City of Sugar Land's emergency notification system, the City's fastest mode of communicating to residents. The automated system makes phone calls, sends emails and text messages to alert residents of any major events that threaten citizens' safety. To register, go to the City's homepage and click "Notify Me," then click on "Alert Center" and sign up. Residents are also encouraged to listen to AM 1650, the City's emergency radio station and watch the City's website and Municipal TV channel (SLTV 16) for news and instructions.

An Emergency Preparedness Guide can be found online at www.sugarlandresponds.com under Quick Links. Printed copies are available at City Hall.

PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH ACHIEVES TOTAL RESPONSE ACCREDITATION

The Sugar Land Public Safety Dispatch Center successfully deployed the Total Response Call Handling System and has achieved accreditation. This important designation serves as a mark of excellence in the public safety industry and ensures an important group of first-responders are prepared to deliver the highest level of services necessary to keep Sugar Land safe.

With seconds making the difference between life, death and property loss, Sugar Land's public safety dispatchers quickly size up situations and allocate necessary resources to mitigate calls for help. They also provide critical instructions for callers to follow before help arrives. Whether responding to highway

accidents or medical calls for help, dispatchers are part of a highly trained team of responders. When citizens call for help, they are the voice on the other end of the line, ready to help 24/7. Their ability to size up situations and allocate the appropriate resources under high stress situations is crucial during emergencies.

Sugar Land's recent accreditation process for the Public Safety Dispatch division included a process to standardize and define quality service and measure performance in emergency call handling. The process was part of an ongoing commitment to providing the highest standard of care in the industry and included:

- a self-assessment of call handling and dispatch function to help establish a baseline to measure future operations;
- an action plan to meet defined standards;
- implementation of practices and standards to support continuous operational improvement;
- adoption of standardized protocols and training; and
- a random selection and review of emergency call to ensure compliance and measure effectiveness.

CALL for PHOTOS!

The City's annual calendar features photos from Sugar Land residents. We encourage residents to go out and take photos of friends and family at Sugar Land events, parks and places. Preference is given to photos that include people. We can only use photos of high quality. Smart phone photos are not high enough resolution for print. Entries must include the photographer's name, contact information and the location and date of each submitted photo. Entrants will be credited if their photo is used in the calendar. Submitted photos may also be considered for the City's website and other City publications. Please submit by Oct. 17. Photos can be sent to pubinfo@sugarlandtx.gov. Call 281-275-2296 for more information.



Summer SAFETY

The Sugar Land Fire Department offers the following tips for a safe summer.

BARBECUE SAFETY

- Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line. Make sure the venturi tubes (where the air and gas mix) are not blocked.
- Do not overfill the propane tank.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire because the flame can flash back into the container and explode.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately. Supervise children around outdoor grills.
- Dispose of hot coals properly. Douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.

POOL SAFETY

- Never leave children alone in or near the pool or spa, even for a moment.
- Make sure pool gates allow exiting from the pool area, but self-close and self-latch at a height children cannot reach from the outside.
- The decision to enroll children under four in swimming lessons should be made by parents and based on developmental readiness, but swim programs should never be seen as "drown proofing" a child of any age.

CAMPFIRE SAFETY

- Build campfires where they will not spread, away from dry grass and leaves.
- Keep campfires small, and don't let them get out of hand.
- Keep plenty of water and a shovel around to douse the fire when done. Stir it, and douse it again with water.
- Never leave campfires unattended.

SPECIAL EVENTS



★★★★ Ticket Location ★★★★★

IMPERIAL PARK
RECREATION CENTER
234 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, TX 77478

MON - FRI, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
SATURDAY, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
SUNDAY, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

STAR SPANGLED SPECTACULAR

Friday, July 4 *** 7-10 p.m.

CONSTELLATION FIELD

DON'T FORGET! Pick up your **FREE** EVENT TICKETS!

Join the Skeeters mascots Swatson and Moe as they celebrate America's 237th birthday at Constellation Field. The patriotic celebration includes an exciting multimedia fireworks show, traditional children's activities and multiple entertainment stages. All activities within the stadium will be free. Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the concession stands.

Due to the stadium's fire code capacity, all attendees are required to present a ticket to gain entrance to the event. Residents may pick up tickets through Sunday, June 22. Any remaining tickets will be available to the general public beginning Sunday, June 23. Each household is allowed up to six tickets.

The tickets are available at the Imperial Park Recreation Center, 234 Matlage Way. Residents must provide their driver's license or water bill with a Sugar Land address as proof of residency.



2014 ATLANTIC LEAGUE ALL-STAR GAME

JULY 16 *** 7:05 P.M.

AT CONSTELLATION FIELD

FIELD BOX SEATING STARTING AT \$25

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT SUGARLANDSKEETERS.COM

IMPERIAL PARK RECREATION CENTER

234 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, TX 77478



PARKS AND RECREATION PLAYBOOK

The new summer playbook is available online at www.imperialparkrecreationcenter.org. Activities offered by the Parks and Recreation Department can be found in the playbook. It is a resource for City events, pool hours and classes at the Imperial Park Recreation Center and the T.E. Harman Center for seniors. Download a copy today!

SPORTS CAMPS



HOUSTON ROCKETS BASKETBALL CAMP

Dates: Monday-Friday, July 7-11
Time: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. | Ages: 5-16 | Cost: \$245

This camp provides instruction on dribbling, shooting, passing, blocking and defense while teaching lessons such as good sportsmanship and the team concept. Register online at www.thebasketballacademy.com or call 832-392-0749 for more information.

FUNDAMENTAL VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Dates: Monday-Friday, July 14-18
Time: 9 a.m.-noon | Ages: 8-16 | Cost: \$100

This camp is for students who would like to learn how to play volleyball, as well as for those who want to improve their skills and prepare for middle school tryouts. Campers will learn all the skills such as passing, setting, hitting and serving and participate in fundamental volleyball drills, multi-skill drills, fun lead-up games and simulated game play. Participants need to wear tennis shoes, a t-shirt and comfortable shorts. Register by phone at 281-275-2885 or in person at the Imperial Park Recreation Center.

ADVANCED VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Dates: Monday-Friday, July 28-Aug. 1
Time: 9 a.m.-noon | Cost: \$125

This camp is for volleyball players who have played on an organized volleyball team or have taken the Fundamental Volleyball Camp. This camp is full of fast-paced drills and advanced instruction and play. Campers will take part in two-on-two, four-on-four and six-on-six tournaments. Participants will need to wear a t-shirt, comfortable shorts, knee pads and tennis shoes. Register by phone at 281-275-2885 or in person at the IPRC.

NBA CHALLENGE CAMP

Dates: Monday-Wednesday, June 30-July 2
Time: noon-3 p.m.
Ages: grades 7-11 | Cost: \$155

The National Basketball Academy offers an intense program for boys and girls in grades 7-11. Focused on fundamental skills training, the camp teaches point moves, a jab series, a ball screen series, movement off the ball and defensive footwork. Registration is limited to the first 30 athletes per session. Contact 832-392-0749 or email elove@thenationalbasketballacademy.com for more information.



RECFEST

Saturday, Aug. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Celebrate the end of summer at the Imperial Park Recreation Center's RecFest! There will be lots of games and rides for everyone. Family and friends will have a chance to test their skills at various athletic and interactive video games. Check the City's website at www.sugarlandtx.gov for more details.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Summer Camp kicked off June 9. There is still time to sign up for one or more of the remaining weeks. Each week includes a trip, imaginative arts and crafts and recreational sports. The trips range from cultural experiences at some of Houston's finest museums to a full day of water fun at the Galveston Schlitterbahn Waterpark. There is something for everyone! To top it off, it is a great chance to build long-lasting friendships.



Summer Day Camp Sessions

(Field trips are subject to change.)

The weekly sessions of the camp are held Monday through Friday, except for the week of session 4, as there will be no camp held on July 4. The sessions are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., but there is the option to start the day at 7 a.m. for an additional charge.

Session 3: June 23-27	Sky Zone
Session 4: June 30-July 3	Kemah Boardwalk
Session 5: July 7-11	Bayou Wildlife Zoo
Session 6: July 14-18	Ringling Brothers: Built to Amaze!
Session 7: July 21-25	Children's Museum of Houston
Session 8: July 28-Aug. 1	Schlitterbahn Waterpark
Session 9: Aug. 4-8	Houston Zoo
Session 10: Aug. 11-15	Lazer Zone
Session 11: Aug. 18-22	NASA Space Center Houston

Registration fees:

Residents (9 a.m.-6 p.m.): \$150 per week

Residents Extended Hours (7 a.m. - 6 p.m.): \$180 per week

Non-residents (9 a.m.-6 p.m.): \$185 per week

Non-residents Extended Hours (7 a.m.-6 p.m.): \$225 per week

Come by the IPRC to register. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 281-275-2885 or visit www.imperialparkrecreationcenter.org for the Parent Handbook.

POSTAL CUSTOMER

CALENDAR

	Date	Event	Time	Location
JUNE	24	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	25	Public Meeting <i>Re: Lakefield Subdivision</i>	6-7 p.m.	City Hall
	26	Planning & Zoning	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
JULY	1, 15, 22	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	4	Independence Day City offices closed Regular solid waste collection		
	4	Star Spangled Spectacular <i>Tickets required!</i>	7-10 p.m.	Constellation Field
	8, 24	Planning & Zoning	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	16	All-Star Game	7:05 p.m.	Constellation Field
AUG	5, 19, 26	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	12, 28	Planning & Zoning	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
SEPT	1	Labor Day City offices closed Regular solid waste collection		

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR: BAYANIHAN



Sugar Land's Filipino community is growing; the most recent census reports 2 percent of the City's Asian population as Filipinos. Mirroring Sugar Land's strong community and family values, Filipinos value their neighbors and community.

In the Filipino culture, *bayanihan* (pronounced "buy-uh-nee-hun") refers to a communal spirit of unity and cooperation. In the Philippines, a cooperative spirit is shown by neighbors and friends helping their fellow *kababayan* or townmate when in need. An old tradition that exemplifies the *bayanihan* principal is when a group of about 20 people would come together to move an entire home by lifting it with a frame made of bamboo poles. Then, the assisted individual or family would thank the volunteers with a *fiesta*, a customary Filipino gathering held for celebrations.

Over the years, the notion of *bayanihan* has evolved to encompass regional and national movements. It is believed that if each of us will do our part, there is hope for our city, state, country and for our world. In Sugar Land, you may find Filipino residents or organizations reference *bayanihan* in an effort to help their neighbor in need.

The *bayanihan* spirit is kept alive beyond the Philippines, as the Filipino community continues to unite and work together for a common good. Be sure to invite your Filipino neighbors to neighborhood events such as a National Night Out block party and feel free to turn it into a *fiesta*!

SAVE THE DATE

HALLOWEEN TOWN | Oct. 26